

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OPR-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6513

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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SUBJ: PANAMANIAN DELEGATES BLAST U.S. ON CANAL ZONE

REF: MSG DTG 270511Z AUG 75 FROM CDR 470TH MI GP FT AMADOR CZ

SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 26, PANAMANIAN MINISTER JUAN TACK
CELEBRATED PANAMA'S ADMISSION TO THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE
IN LIMA BY ATTACKING THE U.S. FOR CARRYING OUT MILITARY
MANEUVERS IN THE CANAL ZONE DURING THE NAC. MEANWHILE,
PANAMANIAN DELEGATE CARLOS PEREZ HERRERA SAID PANAMA WOULD
RECOVER THE CANAL AND THE ZONE BY "ILLEGAL MEANS" IF NECESSARY
AND DENOUNCED THE EXISTENCE OF "COLONIAL ENCLAVES" IN THE
ZONE, PUERTO RICO, AND OTHER PARTS OF LATIN AMERICA. PANAMANIAN
DEL ISSUED PRESS RELEASE HERE AUGUST 27 DENOUNCING MANEUVERS
AS "SUSCEPTIBLE OF ENDANGERING WORLD PEACE", AND DELEGATION
INDICATED SEPARATELY THAT PANAMA WOULD ASK NAC SUPPORT FOR
"WHATEVER MIGHT COME". TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE BELOW. WASH-
INTON POST CORRESPONDENT HAS ASKED FOR COMMENT. WE ARE
REFERRING POST, AND WILL REFER OTHERS, TO DEPARTMENT WITH
NO COMMENT HERE. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN COMMENTS TO REPORTERS FOLLOWING THE AUGUST 26 NAC PLENARY SESSION, TACK SAID PANAMA'S ADMISSION TO THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP "HAS PRODUCED A CURIOUS REACTION ON THE PART OF THE U.S. WHICH AS OF YESTERDAY (AUG 25), IN AN ILLEGAL AND ARBITRARY MANNER, COMMENCED MILITARY MANEUVERS (IN THE ZONE)." TACK IDENTIFIED THE MANEUVER ELEMENT AS THE "82ND DIVISION." HE SAID THAT THE ACTION "FOR US CONSTITUTES AN OPEN MIFIESTATION (AGAINST) PANAMA'S SOVEREIGNTY", AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE AT THE CONFERENCE.

2. IN A SEPARATE PRESS CONFERENCE, PEREZ COMMENTED THAT PANAMA WOULD SOON "PUT AN END TO (THE CANAL) ENCLAVE." HE SAID, "OUR COUNTRY CRAVES THAT HISTORICAL OBJECTIVE BECAUSE WE ARE NOT A COLONY OF ANYONE, AND, FOR THAT REASON, WE ARE A STATE IN INSURRECTION." HE ALSO SAID, "PANAMA IS RESOLVED THAT THIS GENERATION OF PANAMANIANS WILL FULLY RECOVER JURISDICTION AND SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CANAL AND THE ZONE, BE IT THROUGH NEGOTIATION OR OTHER MEANS." ASKED WHAT THESE "OTHER MEANS" MIGHT BE, PEREZ REPLIED THAT WHEN PEACEFUL AND LEGAL MEANS ARE EXHAUSTED, "THERE ALWAYS REMAINS ILLEGAL MEANS, WHICH ARE NO LESS EFFECTIVE FOR BEING ILLEGAL."

3. PEREZ ALSO SAID THAT PANAMA WILL SUPPORT ALL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AMONG NON-ALIGNED NATIONS. IN THIS REGARD, HE CHARACTERIZED AS "REDOUBTS OF COLONIAL ENCLAVES" THE CANAL ZONE, PUERTO RICO, THE FAULKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS), BELIZE, AND "ENCLAVES THAT STILL BELONG TO EUROPEAN POWERS"

4. BEGIN TEXT OF PANAMANIAN DEL PRESS RELEASE. QTE DESDE EL DIECIOCHO DE AGOSTO PANAMA ESTA SUFRIENDO LA PRESENCIA IRRITABLE, RETADORA Y AMENAZADORA DEL SEGUNDO BATALLON DEL REGIMIENTO 505 DE INFANTERIA DE LA DIVISION OCIENTA Y DOS (82) DEL EJERCITO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE NORTEAMERICA, PROCEDENTE DE FORT BRAGGS (SIC), CAROLINA DEL NORTE, EL CUAL SE ENCUENTRA REALIZANDO MANIOBRAS DE ENTRENAMIENTO EN LA SELVA, EN LA PARTE DEL TERRI TORIO PANAMENO DENOMINADO "ZONA DEL CANAL DE PANAMA". LA MENCIONADO DIVISION 82 ESTA CONSTITUIDA PARA PLANIFICAR, ATACAR, CONQUISTAR, MANTENER Y REEMPLAZAR A OTRAS UNIDADES QUE CONSIDEREN EN DESVENTAJA; ASI COMO PARA UNCLASSIFIED

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CUMPLIR TODAS LAS OTRAS INSTRUCCIONES IMPARTIDAS POR EL EJERCITO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS A TODAS SUS DIVISIONES, INCLUIDAS LAS QUE OPERAN DENTRO DE LA NATO Y LA SEATO, ENTRE LAS CUALES PUEDEN MENCIONARSE, ENTRE OTRAS, LA DE "PRESTAR ASISTENCIA (UNDERLINED) A UN GOBIERNO VACILANTE". ES IMPORTANTE SENALAR QUE EL LUGAR DE ORIGEN DE ESA TROPA ES LA MISMA AREA DE ENTRENAMIENTO DONDE SE PREPARARON LAS FUERZAS QUE FUERON VERGONZOZAMENTE DERROTADAS EN VIET NAM

Y CAMBOYA.

EL HECHO QUE DENUNCIAMOS ES UN ACTO DE PROVOCACION SUSCEPTIBLE
DE PONER EN PELIGRO LA PAZ MUNDIAL, LO QUE NOS MUEVE A
DAR CONOCIMIENTO DEL MISMO A LOS PAISES NO ALINEADOS PARA
LAS ACCIONES POSTERIORES QUE PANAMA PUDIERE INICIAR CON EL
FIN DE OPONERSE A ESTOS ACTOS DE INJUSTIFICADA PROVOCACION.

END QTE.

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